

## Making Inferences

**Directions:** Read each short passage carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow. You will not always find the answers stated directly in the text - use clues and your reasoning skills to make inferences.



**The Late Bus** - Max sprinted across the parking lot, backpack flapping wildly. The orange school bus was already wheezing away from the curb. He shouted, waving both arms, but the doors stayed shut. A few kids inside smirked through the windows as Max bent over, hands on his knees, panting.

He looked around. The lot was empty except for a janitor pushing a trash bin and a single pigeon pecking at a wrapper.

Max sighed and pulled out his phone, hesitating.

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### Questions

1. Why is Max running?
  2. What does the phrase "the doors stayed shut" suggest?
  3. What can you infer Max might be about to do with his phone?
  4. How does the pigeon contribute to the mood of the scene?
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**Unspoken Words** - Jaya stared at the piano, fingers hovering over the keys. She had practiced this piece a hundred times, maybe more. But now, in front of the audience, the notes escaped her memory like birds flying out an open window. Her mom gave her a soft smile from the front row.

Jaya closed her eyes, took a deep breath, and played.

### Questions

1. What emotions is Jaya likely feeling before she starts to play?
2. Why might Jaya's mom be smiling?
3. What does the comparison "like birds flying out an open window" suggest about Jaya's memory of the music?
4. What can you infer about Jaya's character from the last line?